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In the Claims:

**Claim 1** (currently amended) Gelling and/or thickening agent characterized in that it is formed from a combination of at least three constituents selected from the group consisting of: a polyacrylamide and ammonium acrylate copolymer and/or anionic acrylic copolymer, phospholipids of plant origin, and a polyglyceryl ~~acrylate~~ acylate.

**Claim 2** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, characterized in that it contains a copolymer concentration ranging from 20 to 50% of the total weight of the agent, a phospholipid concentration ranging from 6 to 40% and a polyglyceryl acylate concentration ranging from 5 to 40%.

**Claim 3** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1 in which the copolymer is present at a concentration ranging from 50 to 80% in a dilute form in a hydrogenated polyisobutene containing from 40% to 60% of active material.

**Claim 4** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, in which the phospholipids are in the form of lecithins which are present in a concentration ranging from 10% to 40% of the total weight of the agent.

**Claim 5** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 4 in which the lecithins contain less than 40% oil and more than 60% phospholipids.

**Claim 6** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, in which the acrylic copolymer is a sodium acrylate/acryloyldimethyl taurate copolymer.

**Claim 7** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, in which the polyglyceryl acylate is a stearate, a distearate or a linoleate.

**Claim 8** (previously presented) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 7, in which the polyglyceryl acylate is a polyglyceryl-10 stearate.

**Claim 9** (currently amended) Gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, constituted by the three constituents selected from the group consisting of: polyacrylamide and/or ammonium acrylate copolymer or anionic acrylic copolymers, phospholipids of plant origin and polyglyceryl acrylate acylate, these three constituents completing the agent to 100% by weight.

**Claim 10** (previously presented) Aqueous, fluid or gelled composition, intended to be applied to the skin, mucous membranes or teguments, characterized in that it contains, as active ingredient, at least one gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, in combination or in a mixture with one or more excipients or vehicles appropriate for cosmetic or dermatological use.

**Claim 11** (previously presented) Cosmetic or dermatological composition according to claim 10, wherein it is produced in the form of an oil-in-water emulsion, with or without

additional emulsifying agent, said gelling and or thickening agent, in the form of a gel, being incorporated into the oil phase or into the aqueous phase of said compositions.

**Claim 12** (previously presented) Cosmetic or dermatological composition according to claim 10 in which the average size of the particles in emulsion ranges from 1 to 11  $\mu\text{m}$ .

**Claim 13** (previously presented) Cosmetic or dermatological composition according to claim 10, in which the gelling and/or thickening agent is present in a concentration ranging from 0.05 to 10% of the total weight of the composition.

**Claim 14** (previously presented) Cosmetic or dermatological composition according to claim 10, in which the gelling and/or thickening agent is present in a concentration ranging from 0.2 to 4%.

**Claim 15** (previously presented) Cosmetic or dermatological composition according to claim 10, in which the vehicle is water or an aqueous vehicle, in a proportion ranging between 20 to 70%.

Cancel **Claim 16**.

**Claims 17 and 18** (cancelled).

**Claim 19** (previously presented) A process for producing an oil-in-water emulsion comprising incorporating in the oil phase the gelling and/or thickening agent according to claim 1, and adding an aqueous phase to the latter.

Add the following claim:

**Claim 20** (new) A cosmetic or dermatological emulsified composition containing a composition of claim 1 as a stabilizing and/or thickening agent.